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Rec'd Aug 21 1961

August 18, 1961

The Hon. S. Symington  
Senate Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I read an article in TRUE Magazine, June 1961 Edition pertaining to Russia's early attempts to launch an astronaut.

The article written by Mr. James Mills tells how Alex Ledonsky was killed at Kapustin Yar in 1957, Serenty Schibarin was killed the following February and in January 1959 Andrei Mitkov who was killed shortly after launching.

I am interested to know if this is true and has it been officially recorded as true by the government of the United States.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Leo C. Koenig

Leo C. Koenig

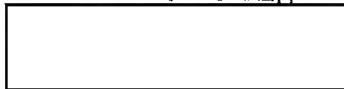
[Redacted]

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United States Senate

August 21, 1961

From: Mr. Leo C. Koenig



Respectfully referred to

Hon. Allen W. Dulles  
-----  
Director of Central Intelligence

for such consideration as the communication  
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report  
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of  
inclosure.

By direction of

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Symington".

Stuart Symington

U. S. S.

GPO 16-78807-1

61-6796/1

5 SEP 1961

BRIEF FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Letter re Soviet  
Cosmonauts

Attached for your signature is a response to Senator Symington with respect to a query from one of his constituents as to the validity of a TRUE magazine article identifying Soviet cosmonauts who had been killed during space launchings. The names are the same as those which had previously appeared in Drew Pearson's column earlier this year.



HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

Attachment:  
Letter to Senator Symington

STAT

61-6790/1

SEP 1961

**BRIEF FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Letter re Soviet Cosmonauts**

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STAT

**HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.**  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

Attachment:  
Letter to Senator Symington

STAT

OSI/OAD/ [ ] dd/ [ ] (5 Sep 61)

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Distribution:

2 - Addressee	1 - DDCI	1 - DD/I	1 - Exec Reg.
2 - OAD/SI	1 - SVB/GMD	1 - GMD/SI	1 - Leg Cnsl

OSI/OAD/[redacted] STAT  
 Distribution: 2 - Addressees STAT  
 1 - DCI 1 - Leg Cnsl  
 1 - DDCI 1 - DAD/P  
 1 - DD/I 2 - SVB/GMD  
 1 - Exec Reg. u/Basic [redacted]  
 2 0 OAD/SI 1 - GMD/SI

Enclosure

Honorable Stuart Symington  
 United States Senate  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Symington:

With reference to the query from your constituent, Mr. Koenig, we have no additional information beyond that furnished to the Space and Astronautics Committee early in May. We continue to believe that the Soviets attempted no manned space launches prior to the Gagarin flight.

The information in the article alluded to by Mr. Koenig is similar to information in articles by Jack Anderson and Drew Pearson during April and May of this year. All these articles appear to stem from information released by the Italian News Agency, *Continental*, in December 1959. We have no reason to believe any of them to be valid.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: Letter to Senator Symington  
 from Mr. Leo C. Koenig

C. P. Cabell  
 General, USAF  
 Acting Director

CONCURRENCES:

[redacted]

Assistant Director (SI)  
 5 SEP 1961

Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence

SEP 7  
 1961

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UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence	DR	7 Sep 61
2	Legislative Counsel East	JWS	8 Sep 61
3	Inspector General 231 Admin	LBM	8 Sep 61
4	Acting Director of Central Intelligence Rec'd 9-11-61	OPC/kem	9/11/61
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks: To A/ DCI :

This entire matter was reviewed again in OSI and [ ] indicated that Pete Scoville thought it better to simply furnish Senator Symington with the facts without suggesting a draft response to the constituent. OSI has carefully considered whether or not the position expressed is classified and they believe it is not.

John S. Warner

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
AD/SI 145 Barton Hall [ ]	5 SEP 1961
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	OSI		
2	145 Barton		
3			
4			
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

Per our telephone conversation of this afternoon. Please make letter for General Cabell's signature as Acting.



John S. Warner

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. DATE

OGC/LC - 221 East

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UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Deputy Director/Intelligence	RAJ/m	AUG 28 1961
2	Legislative Counsel.	JS	29 Aug.
3	231 admin	LDR	29 Aug.
4	Deputy Director of Central Intelligence	EP	
5	Director of Central Intelligence		
6	Mr. Warner (Leg. Counsel)		
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
3	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
1-2	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	4
			SIGNATURE

Remarks:

(4) to (5) : For revision.  
~~5-6~~ Resized per our telephone  
conversation and letter to  
Sen. Symington ready for your  
signature.

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.

DATE

AD/SI 145 Barton Hall

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